



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2008 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811

General Deer Hunting Information For **ZONE X-7b** **and** **Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-14** (Includes Additional Hunt J-20)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-7b located in portions of Nevada, Placer and Sierra counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-14; Zone X-7b Archery Hunt), Zone X-7b general season and any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

North Central Region Office (Region 2), 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900) encompassing Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, northeastern Sacramento, eastern San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, northern Yolo and Yuba counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.asp>

The 2008 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone X-7b (general season tag), Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-14 (archery season only tag), and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet.

To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-7b, hunters must possess an A-14 hunt tag (Zone X-7b Archery Hunt). This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed archery season and **may not** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even if using archery equipment.

To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone X-7b, a hunter must possess a Zone X-7b tag. This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed general season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-14 archery season, even if using archery equipment.

This zone is a popular deer hunting area with lower tag quotas. Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-7b are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for Zone X-7b, Hunt A-14 and any additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To hunt in this area, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit hunt applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the 2008 Hunting Digest, available on-line at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone X-7b contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Significant portions of private land occur along Juniper Creek and near Martis Peak. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone X-7b are administered by the Tahoe and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431 (775-331-6444)
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Area, 870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 (530-543-2600)
Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St., P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City CA 95959 (530-265-4531)

BLM Offices:

Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701 (775-885-6000)

In Zone X-7b and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Tahoe National Forest map. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Primary roadways in Zone X-7b are Interstate 80 and State Highway 89. Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. Weather during the deer season is usually mild to warm during the day but subfreezing at night. Snow can occur at any time during the season and be severe. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

The terrain in Zone X-7b can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of X-7b.

However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are several USFS campgrounds within Zone X-7b and these are shown on the map of the Tahoe National Forest. Informal camping is allowed on both USFS and BLM lands, but campfire permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM or California Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply and it is best to contact the local USFS, BLM or CDF office for the latest information.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone X-7b is considered stable to declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone X-7b is primarily the Rocky Mountain mule deer however you may encounter some Columbian black-tailed deer in western portions of the zone. Deer in Zone X-7b are considered migratory. Some land, principally winter range, is administered by the USFS in Toiyabe National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). However, deer seldom enter winter range during the deer season in Zone X-7b.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-7b ranging from low sage, sagebrush, bitterbrush, montane chaparral, aspen, hardwood-conifer, juniper and conifer to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush, and clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush. The habitat varies from sagebrush flats at the lower elevations to mixed conifer forests to rimrock areas covered by mountain mahogany at the higher elevations. Historically, some of the more popular and productive areas in Zone X-7b include: Boca Hill and Boca Ridge, Prosser Reservoir and Stampede Reservoir, Martis Peak and Verdi Peak.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2008, one additional hunt opportunity exists in Zone X-7b: 1) Hunt J-20 (Zone X-7b Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deermaps.html>

2008 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(b) X-Zone Hunts.

(11) Zone X-7b.

(A) Area: In those portions of Nevada, Placer and Sierra counties lying within a line beginning at the junction of Highway 395 and the California-Nevada state line at Bordertown; south along the California-Nevada state line to the shore of Lake Tahoe; west and south along the shore of Lake Tahoe to the mouth of Blackwood Creek near Idlewild; west on Blackwood Creek to Highway 89; north on Highway 89 to Blackwood Canyon Road; Blackwood Canyon Road near Idlewild; west along Blackwood Canyon Road to Forest Route 03; west and south along Forest Route 03 to the Pacific Crest Trail at Barker Pass; north on the Pacific Crest Trail to its intersection with Interstate 80 near the Castle Peak-Boreal Ridge Summit; east on Interstate 80 to its intersection with Highway 89 at Truckee; north on Highway 89 to County Road S450 (the Henness Pass Road, a.k.a. the Kyburz Flat Road); east on County Road S450 to its intersection with County Road S860 (continuation of Henness Pass Road) near the Davies Creek Campground at Stampede Reservoir; east on County Road S860, over Summit 2 to the junction with County Road S570 (the Long Valley Road); north on County Road S570 to Bordertown at the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone X-7b shall open on the first Saturday in October and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 125.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(42) J-20 (Zone X-7b Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: In those portions of Nevada, Placer and Sierra Counties within the area described as zone X-7b (see subsection 360(b)(11)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-20 (Zone X-7b Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall be concurrent with the zone X-7b general season as described in subsection 360(b)(11)(B).

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 20.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).

2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(12) A-14 (Zone X-7b Archery Hunt).

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(11)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-14 (Zone X-7b Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 20.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****